AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete paragraph [0007] on page 4, and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0007] A number of commercially available hGH products have been developed in an attempt to address this need. For example, ~~Nutropin Depot®~~ NUTROPIN DEPOT® human growth hormone is an injectable suspension of recombinant human growth hormone (rhGH) embedded in a polylactide-coglycolide (PLG) microspheres (see ~~http://~~www.gene.com). In addition to rhGH and PLG, the microspheres also comprise zinc acetate and zinc carbonate components. Prior to administration, the solid material must be reconstituted with an aqueous solution comprising carboxymethylcellulose sodium salt, polysorbate, sodium chloride and water. This suspension, which is mostly comprised of polymer, is administered once or twice monthly and requires a 21 gauge needle for injection. Due to the size of the microspheres and the viscous nature of the product, adverse injection-site reactions can occur, resulting in nodules, erythema, pain, bruising, itching, lipoatrophy and puffiness (see ~~http://~~www.genentech.com/gene/products/information/ opportunistic/nutropin-depot/index.jsp).

Please delete paragraph [0008] on page 4, and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0008] Another hGH product in development but subsequently discontinued is ~~Albutropin™~~ ALBUTROPIN™ human growth hormone, a long acting genetically produced fusion protein of human albumin and human growth hormone (see ~~http://~~www.hgsi.com/products/ albutropin.html). This product is said to exhibit prolonged half-life in circulation, roughly a fifty percent increase over that of soluble native hGH. ~~Albutropin™~~ ALBUTROPIN™ human growth hormone is typically delivered by injection on a weekly basis and is said to stimulate IGF-1 levels long after clearance from the body. The biological effect of this product is similar to that of currently available growth hormone therapies.

Please delete paragraph [0009] on pages 4-5, and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0009] Another product developed was ~~Infitropin CR™~~INFITROPIN CR™ human growth hormone, a formulation of hGH comprised of polyethylene glycol-conjugated hGH molecules. This conjugated hGH required a once a week injection and was said to be released at a continuous rate, without significant burst effect [Ross et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 271(36), 21696-21977 (1996)]. However, this product was discontinued.

Please delete paragraph [0063] on page 18, and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0063] Crystals of human growth hormone or a human growth hormone derivative according to this invention can also be combined with a carrier or excipient, a substance that, when added to a therapeutic, speeds or improves its action [The On-Line Medical Dictionary, ~~http://~~cancerweb.ncl.ac.uk/omd/ index.html]. Examples of carriers or excipients include, for example, buffer substances, such as phosphates, glycine, sorbic acid, potassium sorbate, partial glyceride mixtures of saturated vegetable fatty acids, waters, salts or electrolytes, such as Protamine sulfate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium chloride, zinc slats, colloidal silica, magnesium, trisilicate, cellulose-based substances and polyethylene glycol. Carriers or excipients for gel base forms may include, for example, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, polyacrylates, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene-block copolymers, polyethylene glycol and wood wax alcohols.